

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 AID-05 EB-08 COME-00

TRSE-00 /101 W

-----291531Z 051549 /53

R 291330Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 446

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 STOCKHOLM 1832

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SW, MZ

SUBJECT: VISIT OF SAMORA MACHEL TO SWEDEN

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. THE VISIT TO SWEDEN OF MOZAMBIQUE PRESIDENT SAMORA MACHEL, THE FIRST OFFICIAL VISITOR SINCE THE COALITION GOVERNMENT TOOK OFFICE LAST OCTOBER, WAS APPARENTLY A GREAT SUCCESS. THE ONE DARK NOTE WAS A SOMEWHAT EMBARRASSING SQUABBLE PROVOKED BY THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, WHO CLAIMED THAT THE GOS WAS TRYING TO KEEP MACHEL AWAY FROM FORMER PRIME MINISTER PALME. IN THE COURSE OF HIS VISIT MACHEL MET WITH THE PRIME MINISTER, FOREIGN MINISTER, OTHER HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, AND THE SWEDISH FARMER'S FEDERATION. THE GOS ALSO TOOK HIM ON TRIPS TO FARM AND INDUSTRIAL AREAS, WHICH REPORTEDLY LEFT MACHEL MUCH IMPRESSED.

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2. IN A RATHER ARGUMENTATIVE PRESS CONFERENCE, MACHEL WAS QUERIED ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, PARTICULARLY MOZAMBIQUE'S RELATION TO THE SOVIET UNION. MACHEL INSISTED THAT "NON-ALIGNMENT" ENTAILS THE ABILITY TO CHOOSE ONE'S OWN FRIENDS, AND THAT THE USSR HAS LONG SUPPORTED FRELIMO IN ITS FIGHT FOR INDEPENDENCE. HE ALSO REJECTED THE IMPLICATION DRAWN BY SOME THAT

MOZAMBIQUE IS A SOVIET BASE, AND STATED THAT HIS MAJOR CONCERN IS THE STRUGGLE OF ZIMBABWE. WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE WOULD "TURN TO THE EAST FOR THE WEST" FOR SUPPORT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST RHODESIA, MACHEL REPLIED TESTILY, "WHERE DOES IAN SMITH GET HIS ARMS?"

3. WHEN QUESTIONED ABOUT RUMORS OF MOZAMBIQUE TROOPS FIGHTING IN SHABA, MACHEL ANSWERED THAT "WE HAVE ENOUGH ENEMIES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. WE HAVE NO REASON TO BE IN ZAIRE, SOVEREIGN STATE." MACHEL ALSO TOLD REPORTERS THAT THE PROBLEM IN ZIMBABWE MIGHT BE SOLVED "WHEN THE AMERICANS AND BRITISH START TO BELIEVE IN THE SOLUTIONS THEY THEMSELVES PROPOSE," BUT LATER ADDED THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS CHANGED, "TO A CERTAIN DEGREE," US POLICY IN AFRICA. IN HOMMAGE TO HIS HOSTS, MACHEL POINTED OUT THAT THIS WAS HIS FIRST VISIT TO A WESTERN COUNTRY, AND THAT HE HAD CHOSEN SWEDEN BECAUSE IT HAS LONG SUPPORTED FRELIMO AND BECAUSE "YOU WISH TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS ON EQUAL TERMS, NOT AS GUARDIANS."

4. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. ACCORDING TO MFA OFFICERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE VISIT, IT COULD HARDLY HAVE GONE BETTER, APART FROM THE PUBLIC SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC ASSERTION THAT MACHEL "CAME TO SWEDEN TO THANK PALME FOR SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC ASSISTANCE," AND THAT THE GOS WAS "SABOTAGING" SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC ATTEMPTS TO MEET "OUR" GUEST. THOUGH THIS APPARENTLY IRRITATED THE GOVERNMENT, THE GOS IS VERY PLEASED WITH THE VISIT'S SUCCESS.

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5. DESPITE INITIAL WORRIES THAT THERE WOULD BE DIFFICULTIES, GIVEN THAT THIS WAS MACHEL'S FIRST TRIP TO THE WEST, THAT HE WAS THE COALITION'S FIRST HIGH LEVEL OFFICIAL VISITOR, AND THAT SOCIAL SYSTEMS AND PERSONALITIES (PRIME MINISTER FALLDIN'S AND MACHEL'S) WERE SO DIFFERENT, THINGS WENT "REMARKABLY SMOOTHLY," FALLDIN AND MACHEL GOT ALONG WELL TOGETHER, WITH DISCUSSION FOCUSING ON BILATERAL RELATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION. MACHEL CONCENTRATED ON PRACTICAL MATTERS, RATHER THAN POLITICAL OR IDEOLOGICAL TOPICS. HE EMPHASIZED THE NEED TO DEVELOP ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE, AND STRESSED REPEATEDLY THAT MOZAMBIQUE IS POLITICALLY INDEPENDENT, FREE TO CHOOSE ITS OWN FRIENDS AND TRADE PARTNERS. THERE WERE NO NEW PROMISES OF AID, BUT SWEDES FOUND THE TALKS VERY USEFUL AND FRIENDLY ACCORDING TO MFA OFFICIAL.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 STOCKHOLM 1832

6. ON SOUTHERN AFRICA, SWEDES GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT MACHEL IS SOMEWHAT FAVORABLE TO CONTINUED NEGOTIATIONS AND REALIZES THERE IS A ROLE FOR THE US, THOUGH NOT AS COSPONSOR OF TALKS, SINCE MACHEL VIEWS BRITAIN AS THE NATION WITH COLONIAL RESPONSIBILITY. HE ADHERED TO THE GENERAL FRONT LINE ATTITUDE THAT THE FIRST GENEVA TALKS WERE THE RESULT OF ARMED CONFLICT, WHICH MUST INTENSIFY IN THE FACE OF SMITH'S INTRANSIGENCE. MFA OFFICER SAID MACHEL DID NOT WANT TO DISCUSS ZAIRE, AND EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE "INTERNAL" CONFLICT IN ZAIRE WILL DRAW ATTENTION FROM SOUTHERN AFRICA. MACHEL WAS CRITICAL OF EXTERNAL INVOLVEMENT IN ZAIRE, AND WITHOUT PROMPTING INSISTED THAT THERE WERE NO MOZAMBIQUE TROOPS INVOLVED THERE.

7. COMMENT: GOS INVITED MACHEL TO VISIT IN JANUARY, AND FACT THAT HE IS THE FIRST OFFICIAL VISITOR SINCE ELECTIONS
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IS ANOTHER INDICATION OF THE IMPORTANCE THE FALLDIN GOVERNMENT PLACES ON AFRICA. (OTHER RECENT OR IMINENT

GOS CONTACTS WITH AFRICA INCLUDE THE VISIT OF MR. SITHOLE TO STOCKHOLM, APRIL 21 (SEPT), THE VISIT OF REPRESENTATIVES OF MUGABE APRIL 28, A PROBABLE VISIT BY FOREIGN MINISTER SODER TO NIGERIA THIS SUMMER, AND A POSSIBLE VISIT TO STOCKHOLM BY NKOMO IN MAY.) WE SUSPECT THE GOS IS VERY PLEASED TO HAVE DISPLAYED ITS PROGRESSIVE CREDENTIALS BEFORE A PROMINENT CLIENT OF THE FORMER SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT, AND LOOKS FORWARD WITH GREAT INTEREST TO CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS AND TRADE WITH AFRICAN NATIONS. AS ONE MANIFESTATION OF THIS INTEREST, WE UNDERSTAND GOS PLANS TO ESTABLISH RESIDENT AMBASSADOR IN MAPUTO, WHICH IS CURRENTLY COVERED BY SWEDISH AMBASSADOR IN DAR-ES-SALAAM, IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
PERRY

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Message Attributes

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